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Labour Market News

CENTRAL ALBERTA Government of Alberta

World Skills showcases trades and technology

It's like the Olympics of the trades and technology world. The 40th annual World Skills competition will be held at Calgary's Stampede Park from Sept. 1 to 7.

Over 900 competitors from 50 countries will compete in 45 skill categories, from welding and landscape gardening to mobile robotics and floristry. Team Canada includes eight Albertans, including Red Deer's Craig Spady, who will compete in electrical wiring, and Drumheller's Daniel Green, who will compete in car painting. The goal of the event is to showcase the talents and abilities of young trades and technology professionals under the age of 22.

To learn more about Spady and Green and their World Skills journey, see their profiles on pages 3 and 4. For more information on the competition in Calgary, visit worldskills2009.com. More than 150,000 spectators are expected. Admission to the four-day competition is free.

worldskills Calgary2009

JOB SEEKERS

Upgrading your skills

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. That's what journeyman plumbers Tony Thorsen, 42, and Garry Bealle, 21, did. When the duo were laid off in May, they decided to invest in their futures. Instead of sitting back and waiting for construction work to pick up again, they looked at the job market and saw a need for steamfitters.

A day after they lost their jobs, the plumbers signed up as steamfitter-pipefitter apprentices with a major construction company.

"Getting more training doesn't hurt anybody. The more skills you have, the more job security you have," says Thorsen. He and Bealle expect to earn their steamfitter-pipefitter tickets in about two years.

That's the ticket

Having tickets in two trades will look great on their resumés when the economy rebounds, says Bealle.

"I figured I'm young, I might as well grab as many tickets as I can," he says. Bealle knows the more training he has, the more opportunity he has for advancement in the future. "With a trade, maybe one day I can be a foreman or an inspector. There's a million places you can go if you have your ticket," says Bealle.

Continued on page 2

EMPLOYERS

Investing in staff training

Think strategically for the future

Investing in staff training is an investment in your company. But during an economic downturn, training budgets are often one of the first expenses to be cut.

"It's a bit of a conundrum. When you have the money, you don't have the time. And when you have time and the opportunity is perfect, you don't have the money," says Mark Burggren, executive director of the Central Alberta Rural Manufacturers Association.

Companies should resist the temptation to cut training budgets when profits are down. This strategy may save money in the short term, but it could have long-term costs for your business.

"Businesses have to think about the bottom line right now, but they cannot forget about the future," says Burggren. "It's a matter of 'Are you thinking strategically for the future?' Or are you just so hunkered down that you can't see straight?"

During the boom, there was a lack of qualified labour, and not enough people with professional management skills, says Burggren. Demographics haven't changed. The demand will return, and companies without skilled workers will feel the impact. "There is still a shortage of good people and it's going to be even more intensified over the next few years," he says.

Companies that look beyond the next payroll and invest in training will have a big advantage when the economy picks up. Burggren suggests focusing on the key skills needed to maintain, and grow, your company.

Continued on page 8
See page 7 for a related Best Practice story.

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Working in home care
Job fair prep

JOB SEEKER FEATURE STORY

More skills can mean a better job and better pay

Continued from page 1

Hitting the books

Thorsen and Bealle are not alone. Across Canada, post-secondary enrollment is up as workers head to school to upgrade their training.

At Red Deer College, enrollment in certificate, diploma and university programs is up 22 per cent over last year.

Jim Madder, RDC's vice-president academic, says it's common for people to go back to school when the economy is in a slump. Many students are looking for more stable employment.

"Perhaps their job isn't as secure as it was and they're coming back to upgrade their skills or go on a different career path," says Madder. "Usually, the more skills you have, the less likely you are to be laid off."

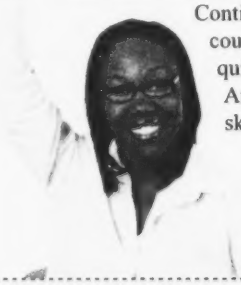
Other students are looking to climb the career ladder and find higher paying jobs. "Those with higher-end skills tend to earn higher incomes," says Madder.

What are my options?

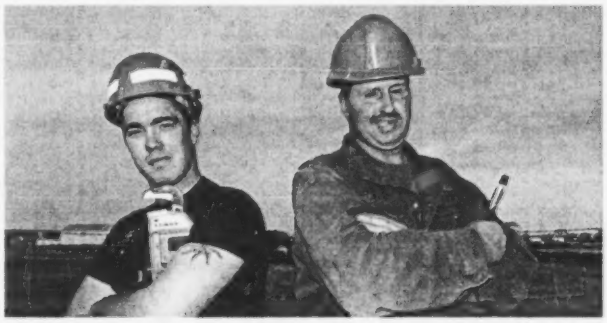
Workers need skills to be competitive, especially in a tight job market. Employers value people with training and education. But you don't necessarily need a four-year degree. Sometimes, even a four-day or four-week course can give your resumé the boost it needs to stand out from the crowd.

In Central Alberta, there are several post-secondary schools offering a variety of certificate, diploma and degree programs. Some only take a few weeks to complete, while others can take a few years.

Many schools offer flexible scheduling options. Some programs are available part-time, so you can work while you learn. Morning, evening and weekend classes may an option. Training may even be available online or through distance learning.



Continuing education classes, short courses and workshops are another quick way to upgrade your skills. Another option is to increase your skills by studying on your own. Libraries, bookstores and the Internet are good sources of affordable—and sometimes free—learning resources.



After getting laid off, Garry Bealle (left) and Tony Thorsen returned to school to get their steamfitting tickets.

How can I pay for training? With grants, scholarships and more!

Taking a course or going back to school can be expensive, but it's worth the price. Think of it as an investment in your future. It could pay off with a better job and better pay down the road. There are many options to help pay for training:

- **Ask your employer** if they have a tuition program. If the training is job-related, they may pay for all, or a portion, of the cost.
- **Student loans** can help pay for education costs. Visit edulinx.ca for Alberta student loans and canlearn.ca for Canada student loans. Students who aren't eligible for provincial or federal loans can try applying for a loan or line of credit from their bank.
- **Grants and bursaries** are available for low to middle-income students. The money doesn't have to be paid back. Contact your local LMIC (see page 9 for locations) or call the Alberta career hotline at 1-800-661-3753.
- **Scholarships**. There are hundreds awarded each year, and they're not all for high school students. Go online to alis.alberta.ca/scholarships for more information.

GET HELP!

Book a free appointment with a career counselor.

They can assist you with career and school planning. Contact your local LMIC for details (see page 9 for locations).

CENTRAL ALBERTA POST-SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Below are some post-secondary schools in Central Alberta, or go to alis.alberta.ca/edinfo for provincial info. Check out school websites for programs and entrance requirements. If you don't have the required education, you may have to take some upgrading courses:

- Red Deer College rdc.ab.ca
- Academy of Learning (Red Deer) academyoflearning.ab.ca
- Olds College oldscollege.ca
- Gardner College (Camrose) gardnercollege.org
- Prairie Bible Institute (Three Hills) prairie.edu
- University of Alberta Augustana Campus (Camrose) augustana.ab.ca
- Canadian University College (Lacombe) cauc.ca
- Norquest College (Wetaskiwin) norquest.ca

From Hotwheels to a hot career in the trades

A childhood love of Tonka trucks and Hotwheels cars has turned into a rewarding career as an auto body refinisher for Daniel Green.

"I've always enjoyed working on cars—anything to do with cars. I'd always tinker with cars with my dad and grandpa. I like the hands-on work that's involved," says the 21-year-old.

After high school, Green started as an auto body detailer at Peterson Auto Body in Drumheller, washing cars and prepping them for auto body work. "I just worked hard and focused on what I was asked to do. When an apprenticeship came open, my boss asked me if I was interested and I took it," says Green.

He earned his journeyperson ticket in spring and will represent Team Canada at the World Skills competition being held in Calgary Sept. 1 to 7. The event showcases the talents of young trades and technology professionals. Green will go head-to-head against other auto body refinishers in the car painting category.

"I'm looking forward to the adrenaline rush of competition, and meeting people from all over the world will be great," says Green.

Just like athletes preparing for the Olympics, World Skills competitors prepare for the competition with months of training.

"I get one-on-one training with a SAIT instructor, which has helped me perfect my painting skills and abilities," says Green.

"I try to get to Calgary every second weekend to meet with my trainer. And in May I went to Montreal to learn how to use Dupont paint, which is the brand we'll be using at the competition."

Competing in Skills Canada at the provincial and national levels, and training for World Skills, has been a great learning experience, says Green.

"Overall for my career it's been very beneficial," he says. "Painters can take 10 years to learn the skills I've learned through the competition."

On the job

When he's not preparing for World Skills, you can find Green sanding, masking, priming and painting vehicles in the Peterson Auto Body shop.

It can be a physically demanding job. He works on his feet for eight or more hours a day in an environment that can be dusty and smelly with paint fumes.

But he loves the new challenges each day brings, working on trucks and cars of every make and model.

"There is always something new to learn in this trade. Every day is different and interesting. It doesn't get boring at all," says Green.

He takes pride in making damaged vehicles look like new again. "I enjoy seeing a customer's face when they pick the vehicle up and they're happy with the product. It's very rewarding to know you did it, you built it, you fixed it. You know you've done a good job and it's the pride that comes with it," says Green.

The road to becoming a journeyman took time and effort, but it was worth it for Green. He would recommend the apprenticeship program for anyone looking for a long-term, rewarding career.

"Most of the trades pay pretty good, and they're always in demand," says Green. "Do what you love to do. When you like your job, it makes things so much easier. It doesn't make it so much a job any more, but a hobby that you get paid for."

Working as an AUTO BODY REFINISHER (NOC 7322)

Job description

Auto body refinishers do damage appraisals, surface preparation, minor damage repairs, masking, colour matching, priming and top coating.

Apprenticeship term

The term of apprenticeship for an auto body refinisher is two years, including a mix of on-the-job training and technical schooling. For full details visit tradesecrets.alberta.ca.

Wages

In 2007, the average wage in Alberta for an auto body repairer/painter was $25 per hour.

Team Canada
Vital Statistics

Name: Daniel Green
Age: 21
Occupation: Auto Body Refinisher
Hometown: Drumheller
Employer: Peterson Auto Body

Electrician all charged up about his future

A grocery store in Sylvan Lake. A hardware store in Castor. A health centre in Red Deer. These are just a few of the new construction projects Craig Spady helped build during his four-year electrical apprenticeship at Red Deer's Q2 Electrical Contractors.

"I just enjoy what I do. It's fun to start with nothing and see the completed project at the end. The customers are always happy and excited to have a new building to move into," says Spady.

He began learning the trade in high school through the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP). Q2 hired him and provided on-the-job training. When he graduated from Grade 12, he had enough apprenticeship hours to go straight into his first-year of technical training at Red Deer College. Now, at age 22, he's finished his four-year apprenticeship and has his journeyperson ticket in his pocket. In September, he'll put his training to the test at the World Skills competition in Calgary, where he'll take on other contenders in the electrical wiring category.

"The whole experience has been a really big learning curve," says Spady. "It's opened a lot of doors and made me realize there are lots of ways to further myself and my career through education."

Not only has World Skills opened his eyes to new technologies, it's given him the chance to train on new equipment and learn new methods and techniques. He even traveled to France to hone his skills and train on unfamiliar European equipment.

"Half the materials for the World Skills competition are coming from France to Calgary," he explains.

On the job

Spady works mostly on commercial projects at Q2. Electricians are involved in construction from top to bottom.

"We start outdoors in the dirt, installing conduits," says Spady. "As the walls go up, more of the work is done indoors. I enjoy everything that comes with the job, even the dirty work."

Each job brings new challenges, but that's what makes the work interesting, says Spady. He takes satisfaction in finding solutions to any problems that may come up.

"There are always new things to learn on every job—something you've never dealt with and you have to work through it," says Spady. "I always have other electricians around to ask for advice if there's something I can't figure out. There's always people to help you."

Even though Spady has his electrical ticket, he plans to continue his education. He has already earned his Red Seal (an inter-provincial standard) and may one day go back to school to earn a Blue Seal (business training for trades) or to take an electrical engineering technology program.

"Upgrading is becoming more important all the time. Technology is changing so fast," he says. "I always want to keep moving up, wherever that takes me."

Team Canada
Vital Statistics

Name: Craig Spady
Age: 22
Occupation: Electrician
Hometown: Red Deer
Employer: Q2 Electrical Contractors

Working as an ELECTRICIAN (NOC 7241)

Job description

Electricians install, alter, repair and maintain electrical systems for all types of buildings, structures and premises.

Apprenticeship term

The term of apprenticeship for an electrician is four years, including a mix of on-the-job training and technical schooling. For full details visit tradesecrets.alberta.ca.

Wages

In 2007, the average wage in Alberta for an electrician was $24.42 per hour (excluding industrial and power system electricians).

TIPS FOR JOB SEEKERS

Learning basic **skills...**

Reading, writing and math

Reading, writing and math are basic skills needed for work. Without basic skills, you may have a hard time finding or keeping a job. You may not be able to do the training you need to move up at work.

work it out

But help is available. You may qualify for basic skills training and academic upgrading. Many programs are offered by the provincial government. Groups across Central Alberta also offer help, such as free tutoring.

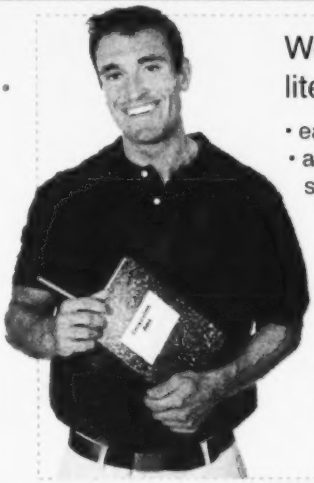
"People have different learning styles and they may have learning disabilities," says Atul Badoni, with Alberta Employment and Immigration. "There are tools and other supports to help them."

Where can I go for help?

If you need help, visit your local **Labour Market Information Centre**. See page 9 for locations. Ask to speak with a career and employment counselor. They can help you access programs or refer you to agencies that can help.

You can also call the **Literacy Alberta Helpline** at 1-800-737-3231. Literacy Alberta (literacyalberta.ca) links people with tutors and other resources.

The **Central Alberta Refugee Effort** and **Catholic Social Services** provide literacy help for immigrants. Call 403-346-8818 or go online to intentr.com/immigrantctr/care.htm.



Workers with higher literacy skills usually:

- earn more income
- are more likely to have steady jobs
- can move easily to other jobs
- have full-time work
- go for further training
- have higher self-esteem, and
- have fewer work-related injuries.

Source: Literacy Alberta

Central Alberta volunteer tutors

- Red Deer County Adult Literacy Program (Innisfail)
  Ph. 403-227-2866 **Website:** hendaylearning.com
- Red Deer Public Library Adult Literacy Program
  Ph. 403-346-2533 **Website:** rdpl.org/adult-literacy
- Rocky Adult Tutoring Program (Rocky Mountain House)
  Ph. 403-845-4544
- Camrose Adult Read & Write Program
  Ph. 780-672-0061 **Website:** camrosecalc.com
- County of Lacombe Adult Literacy Program
  Ph. 403-782-7655 **Website:** clila.com/alp.htm
- County of Ponoka Literacy Program
  Ph. 403-783-5211 **Website:** rpalcouncil.ab.ca
- Drayton Valley Adult Literacy Society
  Ph. 780-621-1722 **Website:** dvreadandlearn.com
- Drumheller and District Literacy Project
  Ph. 403-823-4668 **Website:** drumfurthered.com
- Kneehill READ Program (Three Hills)
  Ph. 403-443-5556
  Website: www3.telus.net/kals
- Mountain View Community Literacy Society (Olds)
  Ph. 403-556-3045
  Website: mvcls.ca
- Stettler Read and Write
  Ph. 403-742-2999
  Website: stettlerlearning.com
- Wetaskiwin Society for the Promotion of the English Language and Literacy
  Ph. 780-352-7257

Alberta government programs:

➡ **Work Foundations** is primarily for low-income Albertans to provide full- and part-time basic skills training and academic upgrading. Training can include:

- *Basic Skills*—Literacy and numeracy (Grades 1-6), adult basic education (Grades 7-9) and life skills
- *Academic Upgrading*—Grades 10 to 12
- *English as a Second Language* (ESL)
- *General Equivalency Development* (GED)—Upgrading for a high school education
- *Technical Entrance Preparation*—Upgrading to help with admission to Alberta technical institutes
- *University College Entrance Preparation*—Upgrading to help with admission to Alberta post-secondary institutions.

For more information on Work Foundations, go online to alis.alberta.ca or call 403-340-5353.

➡ **Workplace Essential Skills Training Program** helps employers with training in essential workplace skills, such as reading, writing, ESL and math. It also teaches other skills, such as how to use a computer and how to work with others. For more information call 780-427 9626.

➡ **Disability Related Employment Supports (DRES)** helps adult Albertans with disabilities address barriers to employment or school. For example, an apprentice who has a learning disability may qualify for tutoring or other help. For more information on DRES, go online to employment.alberta.ca/CES/3159.html or call: 1-800-661-3753 or 403-340-5353.

Labour Force Survey Highlights

Second quarter 2009

For several years now there have been more jobs than workers in Central Alberta. But in the second quarter of 2009, the labour supply outstripped the number of jobs available creating a surplus labour market.

Over the past few years, employers were desperate for workers. In today's job market, many employers have stacks of resumés for jobs they had a hard time recruiting for just one year ago. The fast-changing relationship is reflected in an unemployment rate that has nearly doubled since last year.

In the second quarter of 2008, the regional unemployment rate stood at 3.2 per cent (which is considered a shortage of workers). In the second quarter of 2009 it was 6.1 per cent.

Compared to the national average, however, Alberta and the Central Region still have among the lowest unemployment rates in Canada. In June, Alberta's unemployment rate (unadjusted) was 6.2 per cent, with Central Alberta just under that at 6.1 per cent.

Canada's unemployment rate, however, hit 8.1 per cent, although that is down from 8.7 per cent in May and 8.5 per cent in April.

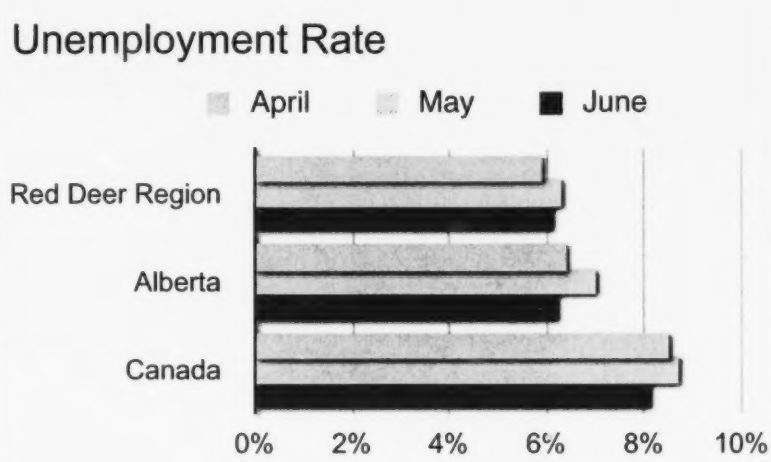
The number of unemployed people in the region has slowly been creeping up as well, from an average of 8,800 people in the second quarter of 2008 to 13,700 in the first quarter of 2009 and now hitting 17,300 in the second quarter of 2009.

While there are fewer jobs, there appear to be more people entering the workforce, increasing the pool of workers competing for those jobs.

Between the second quarters of 2008 and 2009, the region's labour force grew by 7,700 people.

Some good news for job seekers

Job seekers looking for good news should note that the rate of job losses across the country appears to be slowing. Canada's economy lost 7,400 jobs in June, but many economists has predicted 35,000 jobs would be lost. And there is more good news from Statistics Canada, which reports that the number of jobs in Alberta has held steady over the past three months.

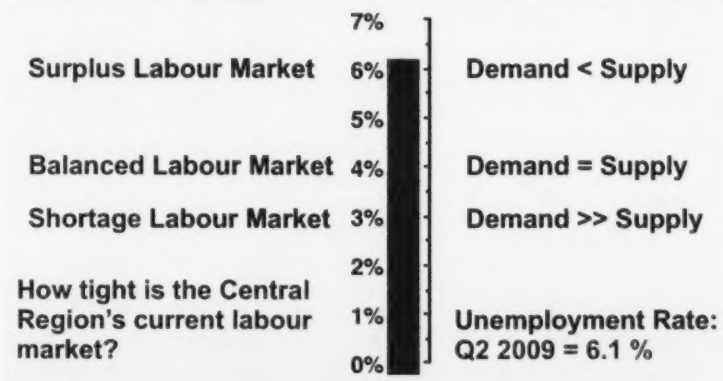


Region	Central Alberta Labour Force Statistics *				
	April	May	June	Q2 2009	Q2 2008
Labour force (000s)	281.1	281.3	282.4	**281.6**	273.9
Employed (000s)	264.1	263.5	265.1	**264.2**	265
Unemployed (000s)	17.0	17.8	17.2	**17.3**	8.8
Unemployment Rate	6.0%	6.3%	6.1%	**6.1%**	3.2%

NOTE: *Central Alberta data is combined data for the economic regions of Red Deer, Camrose-Drumheller, and Banff, Jasper and Rocky Mountain House. Unemployment figures for Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House were calculated when suppressed. All data are unadjusted.

SOURCE: Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry Labour Force Statistics, employment.alberta.ca/lmi (Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey data)

Labour Market Thermometer



Learning and development

Staff training value-added for Red Deer Co-op

Best Practice FOR EMPLOYERS

Employee training has always been an important part of the corporate culture at Red Deer Co-op. Learning and development is listed as a company benefit, alongside things like a dental plan and group insurance.

The commitment to professional development continues today, says Red Deer Co-op human resources manager Corinne Krogman. "Our employees are our greatest asset and by investing in their personal development, they're able to do their job more effectively," says Krogman.

Co-op training programs have helped long-time employees Rhonda Barber (right) and Kari Noete advance to supervisory roles.

Since the company began operations in 1956, it has always placed a high emphasis on training and development programs. The company owns facilities in Red Deer, Lacombe, Stettler and Elnora, including grocery stores, gas bars and a home and garden centre. There are more than 400 staff on the payroll.

Many employees start in entry-level positions and, with the help of training and development programs, are given the opportunity to advance into management positions. In fact, Red Deer Co-op prefers to provide internal training and advance employees from within. "They're already familiar with the Co-op way and by developing and promoting from within, you're investing in your own people," says Krogman.

Training starts on day one

Staff training begins as soon as a new employee is hired. "We provide department specific on-the-job training," she says. As well, new workers are paid to take an e-learning orientation program, which provides information on the company and training in areas such as customer service.

Beyond the initial training for new staff, ongoing employee development is provided with support from Federated Co-operatives Ltd., an umbrella organization based in Saskatoon.

Red Deer Co-op and Federated Co-operatives share the cost of having "learning facilitators" travel to the region and provide one or two day seminars to all levels of staff. Last year, 130 employees took part in the seminars. A wide variety of topics were offered, from value-added selling to achieving a good work/life balance. Krogman says the seminars help keep workers enthusiastic about their jobs. "It's kind of like a fresh perspective on your job," she says.

Helping people advance

Employees looking to advance within the company also have plenty of opportunity and support. The One-to-One Management Training program offered through the Federated Co-op provides hands-on learning for individuals who want to move up in their career. Over 16 weeks, they gain experience in everything from operations and inventory control to marketing and supervision. It's an affordable way for stores to utilize existing talent to develop their workforce.

"It's a mentorship training program that results in management trainees, for people prepared or ready to manage departments," says Krogman. "They work side-by-side with a manager."

Another option is the Accelerated Advanced Management Training program, which helps staff build the skills and experience needed for future management positions. A training manual is used, supplemented by off-the-job training seminars and hands-on experience.

"In this particular training program staff continue to do their regular job and work through modules on their own time. It can take anywhere from six months to two years," says Krogman.

Besides its in-house training programs, Red Deer Co-op will also provide tuition reimbursement to assist staff who want to take work-related post-secondary training. "There's a direct return to us, because as they increase their skill level it immediately benefits the company," says Krogman.

A benefit that works both ways

Learning and development is a benefit that pays off for both employees and the company. Employees have the opportunity to continually upgrade their skills and advance and the company gets a return on its investment as well. Not only can staff do their job better, they are also happier, more motivated and they feel valued by their employer, says Krogman.

"By investing in your employees, you're building the relationship you have with your employees," she says.

EMPLOYERS

Staff training

Continued from page 1

If your workforce is underdeveloped, it is difficult to reach targets and grow your company, he says. Identify your best performing, key employees and keep their skills up-to-date. Now is also a good time to train younger staff to replace older employees who may soon be retiring.

"This is a perfect time to work at honing (staff) skills and preparing the base of your company—the capability of your company—for the next big jump that we're going to have, whenever that happens," says Burggren.

He used to work at a large company that put two per cent of its capital costs into equipment maintenance. The company decided to take the same approach with staff training, investing two per cent of employee salaries into professional development.

"We say that our best assets are our people," says Burggren. "If we're willing to spend to keep our machinery operating, we should be willing to invest in keeping our people current, too."

Return on investment

Besides business growth, staff training has other benefits:

- stronger sales performances
- increased customer satisfaction
- lower turnover, resulting in lower recruitment costs
- fewer accidents
- increased productivity
- improved staff morale
- more loyal employees.

Training doesn't have to be expensive

If weekend conferences in Banff or post-secondary courses are outside the budget for now, there are affordable alternatives. Here are some ideas to consider:

- **Internal coaching or mentoring**. Use senior staff to train junior employees.
- **Cut the fat.** Tailor your training budget to meet your company's biggest needs right now.
- **Group training.** Having one instructor teach a group in-house can be less expensive than sending employees to different courses off-site.
- **E-learning.** Deliver training or educational information electronically. Computers, videos or satellite TV are some options.
- **Job rotation and cross-training.** Temporarily move employees into another job. This can broaden their knowledge and help them with career advancement. It also provides employers with a more flexible workforce.

For more information and ideas, read *Skills by Design: Strategies for employee development.* It can be found online at alis.alberta.ca/pdf/cshop/SkillsDesign.pdf.

FOR A BEST PRACTICE STORY ON STAFF TRAINING DURING AN ECONOMIC DOWNTURN, SEE PAGE 7.

EMPLOYER

Resources

Both federal and provincial governments have practical programs to help meet the current needs of employers. Here are a few programs that can be of assistance to business.

Information sources

The Labour Market Information page on the Alberta Employment and Immigration (E&I) website offers links to labour force statistics, forecasts, and wage and salary information. (employment.alberta.ca/lmi)

- The Central Alberta Economic Partnership (CAEP) website (centralalberta.ab.ca) has hundreds of links to information sources and programs including:
- Support for Training Workers
- Wage Subsidy Programs
- Recruiting Employees
- Employment Services in Central Alberta
- Foreign Worker Employer Guide

Seminars and networking

Employer Connections are held every Wednesday at the Labour Market Information Centre, 2nd Floor, First Red Deer Place, 4911-51 St. (across from the Provincial Building).

The meetings are an opportunity to meet job seekers, employment agencies and career counsellors.

Each week a single employer is showcased and presents their current job opportunities. To participate free of charge call 403-340-5353 and ask for a Business and Industry Liaison.

Labour solutions

- Red Deer Aboriginal Employment Services. Ph. 403-358-7734
- Métis Employment Services. Ph. 403-342-6636
- Career Assistance Network provides job search workshops, job board and assistance for job seekers. Ph. 403-341-7811
- Employment Placement Support Services supports Albertans with workplace training and enhanced employment services. Ph. 403-343-6249
- Employment Access offers employment programs for clients with disabilities. Ph. 403-341-2363
- DRES provides support and assistance to employers hiring people with disabilities. Contact the Canada-Alberta Service Centre in Red Deer. Ph. 403-340-5353

Personalized help when needed

There are dozens of programs available to employers. E&I employees will visit the workplace and provide a summary of options and opportunities. For example, they can direct managers to initiatives that will help their business, and workforce adjustment teams are available to help employees find new work if they are laid off.

For more information call 403-340-5353 and ask for a Business and Industry Liaison.

Sign up free: We're live and online

In the News, an electronic digest about regional business expansions, relocations and closures, and *Finding Work In*, which profiles different career opportunities, are available online at employment.alberta.ca/central. A free subscription service will notify you by e-mail when the latest edition of each product comes out.

On the same web page there are *Labour Market News* products for Stettler, Wetaskiwin, Vermilion and Wainwright.

JOB SEEKER

Resources

There are many resources in the central region that can be helpful to job seekers and workers alike.

Where to find us

This publication, In the News, (an electronic digest about regional business expansions, relocations and closures) and Finding Work In, which profiles different career opportunities, are available online at employment.alberta.ca/central.

A free subscription service will notify you by e-mail when the latest edition of each product comes out.

Job search and career websites

- jobbank.gc.ca **(Job listings, links and other services)**
- alis.gov.ab.ca **(Alberta Learning Information Service)**
- workopolis.ca **(Job listings)**
- monster.ca **(Job listings)**
- nextsteps.org **(Job resources for youth)**
- albertajobs.com **(Job listings)**
- hgcareers.com **(Job listings)**
- healthjobs.ab.ca **(Health care job listings)**

Job search and career information by phone

Alberta Career Information Hotline:

1-800-661-3753

Fax: 780-422-0372 TDD: 780-422-5283

Resumé review service

The Government of Alberta e-Resumé Review Service is a great way to have a resumé reviewed and improved, before sending it to employers.

To access the service, log on to alis.gov.ab.ca/hotline/resume and follow the instructions to send your resumé for review.

The service is free to residents of Alberta and those seeking work in Alberta.

Resources for labour market information

These websites offer a wealth of labour market information on Alberta and specific communities.

- employment.alberta.ca/lmi **(Alberta Employment and Immigration)**
- alis.gov.ab.ca **(Alberta Learning Information Service)**
- albertafirst.com **(Business and economic information)**
- centralalberta.ab.ca **(Central Alberta Economic Partnership)**
- alis.gov.ab.ca/employment/lmi/alberta.asp) **(Labour market information across Alberta)**
- labourmarketinformation.ca **(Service Canada)**

Seminars and networking

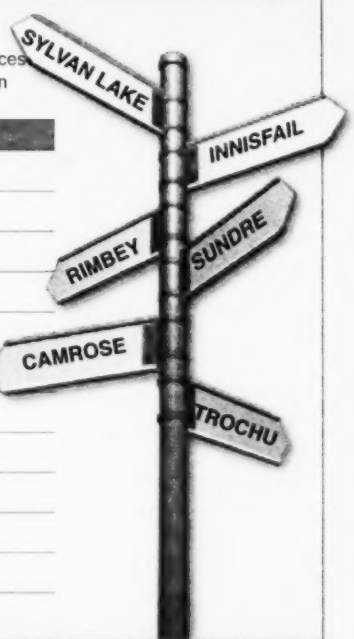
Employer Connections are held every Wednesday at the Labour Market Information Centre, 2nd Floor, First Red Deer Place, 4911-51 St. across from the Provincial Building.

The meetings are an opportunity to meet employers face to face.

New to Central Alberta?

See past issues of the Labour Market News (employment.alberta.ca/central) for employment, social services, health care, transportation and other great resources available in your community. Information is also available on municipal websites (see links below).

City / Town	Month
Camrose	camrose.com
Didsbury	didsbury.ca
Drayton Valley	draytonvalley.ca
Innisfail	townofinnisfail.com
Lacombe	lacombe.ca
Olds	town.olds.ab.ca
Ponoka	ponoka.org
Red Deer	reddeer.ca
Rocky Mountain House	rockymtnhouse.com
Stettler	stettler.net
Sylvan Lake	town.sylvan-lake.ab.ca
Wetaskiwin	wetaskiwin.ca



LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION CENTRES

Labour Market Information Centres (LMIC's) provide information to help you make career, learning and work decisions. LMICs have books, magazines, newspapers, software and videos about employment-related topics. You can also book a free appointment with a career and employment counselor.

There are LMIC's across Alberta. For a complete list, see: employment.alberta.ca/lmic.

LMIC's in Central Alberta:

Camrose Alberta Service Centre
3rd Flr., Gemini Centre, 6708 - 48 Ave.
Ph. 780-608-2525

Drayton Valley Sub-Office
2nd Floor Provincial Building
5136 - 51 Ave. Ph. 780-542-3134

Olds Alberta Service Centre
4905 - 50 Ave. Ph. 403-507-8060

Red Deer Canada-Alberta Service Centre
2nd Floor First Red Deer Place, 4911 - 51 St.
Ph. 403-340-5353

Rocky Mountain House Alberta Service Centre, 4919 - 51 St. Ph. 403-845-8590

Stettler Alberta Service Centre
4835 - 50 St. Ph. 403-742-7586

Wetaskiwin Alberta Service Centre
1st Floor Macadil Building
5201 - 51 Ave. Ph. 780-361-5878

Lloydminster LMIC
5016 - 48 St. Ph. 780-871-6445

Wainwright LMIC
810 - 14 Ave. Ph. 780-842-7500

Vermilion LMIC
4701 - 52 St. Ph. 780-853-8164